

Press Statement
For immediate release
Friends of the Earth International

UN Talks reach consensus to create strict rules for GMO damage
More than 80 countries forms the group of "Like-Minded Friends" to adopt an international binding regime on liability

Bonn, May 16. Friends of the Earth International welcome the results of the UN Talks on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), which for the first time have reached consensus to create strict rules to tackle damage caused by GMOs.

"It is great news that Parties of the UN agreement that meet in Bonn have listened to the voices of the majority of developing countries that for more than ten years had been calling for strong rules on liability to protect their citizens from GMO damage", said Juan Lopez of Friends of the Earth International.

The agreement has been possible thanks to a group of over 80 like-minded countries that got together and pushed the rest of Parties to the UN Treaty towards achieving consensus. The group called "The Like-Minded Friends" is committed to the adoption of comprehensive rules on liability at the international level. The "Like Minded Friends" is the largest single negotiating group of Parties of the UN Treaty on GMOs, and its formation constitutes a major breakthrough towards protecting the public and the environment from harm caused by GMOs.

The UN Treaty called the Biosafety Protocol has been joined by 147 Parties [1]. The Meeting of the Parties of the Biosafety Protocol was held this week in Bonn (May 12-16), and will guarantee a process that adopts a liability mechanism within the next two years.

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[1] <http://www.cbd.int/mop4/>